6Br 97.10.41

Balls' Hill,
April 5th, 1898.

My dear Miss White:-

Although you do not mention the yellow in front of and over the eye which is a prominent and characteristic marking of the Savanna Sparrow at this season I think it very probable that the bird you saw belonged to that species. Indeed it could not well have been anything else excepting a Vesper Sparrow & that, I take it, you are quite

Certain this bird was rare.
The Savanna Sparrows breeds
in the meadows both above
and below Red Bridge & I
always see or hear it there
in spring. I have noted
only one bird there for a
week singing
March 29th.
Although Mr Bartlett had
told me about the Short Eared
I am glad to know the
exact dates when they are
here.

Thanking you for writing
I remain

Very sincerely
Julian Brownell.

Peterborough, N. H.
August 8th, 1898.

My dear Miss Wheeler:-

It is always a pleasure to hear from you about the birds but I fear I cannot help you much in the present instance. The Small Flycatchers are so difficult of discrimination that it is out of the question to attempt to identify them by description - however complete - of the living birds. On general principles it is safe to predicate that you will find breeding at Heath the Phoebe, Wood Pewee and Least Flycatcher and not

improbably the Olivaceous Bird (a big, noisy fellow not to be confounded with the smaller ones) also. The Tinkle is more doubtful but it occurs locally in northern Buckinghamshire in summer. It is a shy, or at least retiring, bird, partial to thickets of alders & osiers by rivers & rarely seen in large trees. It is very noisy in the breeding season calling quee-wittaby, quee quiuah or hip at frequent intervals. Although a slightly larger bird than the Green Tree Frog it is closely in color & markings that the skins can be separated only by an expert & we are pleased to distinguish the living birds of each by their notes.

It is just possible that you may have the accidental Cyanotheca

but this bird is not known to occur regularly in any part of New England. Its notes are somewhat like those of Bewick's Wren but the bird haunts woods instead of thickets & hedges will say in the text. Its usual summer cry (probably a song) may be rendered wichity-up-abampt-ephesia-cather heard.

I am not surprised at the occurrence of the Fauna & Roseate Bird.

The Upland Plover is the only bird that breeds regularly in New England with which breeding habits I am unfamiliar. I would gladly go to Heath meet you if you can assure me that I shall surely find the Plover there and if there is any place in the town where I can find accommodations for a few days. I especially want to hear the bird hear notes & see its courtship flights. At what season may one be sure of this?

Very sincerely
William Brewster.

Balli Hill, Cornwood,
May 14th 1899.

My dear Miss White:—

My desire to see
the Upland Plover in their
nesting haunts certainly holds
good and you are most
kind to remember it but
I do not see how I can
possibly go to Heath this
year in June for I have
already made engagements
for practically the entire
month. I cannot help
thinking, too, that June
(even the earlier part) would
be too late to see the
Birds go through their courtship

not precisely all alone of in his journal at
home [illegible] this. Young [illegible] Brewster.

low. walking flights etc. But perhaps I am wrong as to this for I have had no personal experience with them and I cannot consult my books here. Would it not be best, under the circumstances, to postpone my visit until another year? Perhaps you & your sister can find out this season just when the Roses are most interesting & I can take advantage of your experience next season. I have been away from Bath this week & the Crimson Rambler will be over the 11th. Hence this delay in answering your note.

I thank you most heartily for your kind invitation & trust that my present inability to accept it will

Peterboro, N. Y.

July 11th, 1859.

My dear Miss White: —

You are most kind to renew your invitation and nothing would give me greater pleasure than to accept it if I could; but every week of my time from now to October is filled with engagements which I cannot by any means change. During the remainder of this month & the whole of August I must be here to help Mrs. Stanton entertain the

friends whom we have invited
and who lived closely in
our affections for ages. We
have taken a whole house
and as it is in a very
lovely place we have arranged
to keep it filled with guests
the whole time: next year
I shall hope for better news
with regard to Health. If I
am in Concord in early Spring
I shall make a point of
meeting you & your sister
& we can then talk the
matter over. You may be
sure I really want to see
not only the Plowe but
your beautiful Wife, but the
clock seems to have run

against me this year.

I have often seen Wood Thrushes behaving in the way you describe in Illinois & Blue Jays there come into the Business Streets as familiarly as English Sparrows. I have seen them hopping along curb stones & pecking on Egg's on the doors of stores. As you say many of the birds of this Ohio valley seem to be more familiar than they are here.

I think your Thrushes at Heath could prove to be Hermits but this is only a guess. They are common here & shall be in full song.

Thanking you for your kind letter I remain

Very sincerely
William Brewster

Balls Hill,
June 1st, 1901.

Dear Miss White;

It was very kind of you to let us know about the Red-Crested Woodpecker's nest. It is, as far as I am aware, the first nest of this species that has been found in Middlesex County or rather the first inhabited nest. I shall visit it either this afternoon or to-morrow if I can find the time.

Mrs. Blewitt & I enjoyed yours & your sister's visit

here greatly. I only wish
you could all have stayed
until sunset when the birds
sang freely. The Mourning Warbler
stayed three days & left last
night. The only water-bound
migrants I can find to-day
are a Gray-cheeked Thrush, a
Black-poll Warbler & a
Winter Wren. The Partridge
was still sitting this morn.

Yours sincerely
Norman Bramwell.

Cambridge,
March 26th, 1901

My dear Miss White;

Have you & your sister
any objection to ask Mrs. Benson
& me again to visit you at
Hewitt. Unfortunately we cannot
go on April 19th for on that
both & in Washington on
that date. There is, I should
say, an excellent chance that
we may & able to go the
first of June although that
is too far off for us to be
sure of our plans now.
I do not think it would
be too late to have the
Pleasure for Longfellow songs
that in New York Glees

Cambridge,
March 26th, 1901

My dear Miss White;

Have you & your sister any objection to ask Mrs. Benson & me again to visit you at Hewitt. Unfortunately we cannot go on April 19th for on that both & in Washington on that date. There is, I should say, an excellent chance that we may & able to go the first of June although that is too far off for us to be sure of our plans now. I do not think it would be too late to have the Pleasure for Longfellow songs that in New York Glees

thing do not say this egg
until late in May and it
is probable that this com
fights & moths are combined
nearly or quite up in the
where the young are hatched.
If it is not inconvenient for
you to have our definite decision
now I hope you will let
us consider the question as
to our visit a few weeks longer
until our plans for the summer
are more fully matured.
I am glad that you & your
had such a good day in
the Back Hill region. I was
there yesterday and took a car
load of birds but the storm drove
me back this morning.
Brewster joins me in thanks &
kind regards to you both.
Yours sincerely
Frederic Brewster

Cambridge,
June 16th. 1902.

My dear Miss White;

Was it possible I should start for Heath to-morrow morning for I have never seen an Upland Plover's nest and your account of the one you have found makes me more than eager to share in the privilege that you are enjoying. But your note has only this moment reached me here and I must go to Wolfeboro, New Hampshire to-morrow to attend a meeting of Trustees of which I am a member and when I return on Thursday it will be to receive a lot of

people whom Mrs. Brewster & I have invited to the farm house at Concord & some of whom are to remain until Saturday. while Mrs. Brewster & I have promised to go to the Thaxters' (in Berkshire) on Tuesday of next week. So I see no hope of getting to Health before the young Plovers are hatched and gone.

Any and all notes that you can make respecting this nest & its owners will be of value to me for had I to write of the Upland Plover to-morrow I should have nothing original to offer respecting its nesting unless you would permit me to quote from the deeply interesting letter that you have just written me. If you can ascertain just when the nest was first found and then when the eggs hatch it will throw some light on the

question as to the period of incubation. It would also be useful to note a careful description of the character, size & position of the nest (whether sunk in the ground or not) after the young leave it. But most valuable of all to me will be more of the vivid, first-hand sketches of the appearance & behavior of the birds such as those included in your present letter.

It was most kind of you to send me these notes and to offer to make further additions to them and I am truly grateful.

Yours sincerely
William Brewster.

Please give my kindest regards to your sister.

Concord,

June 21st, 1902.

My dear Miss White;

I have so often had experiences similar to those which you describe that I think I can fully understand and sympathize with your feelings. But in this particular case it seems doubly hard because of the fact that the Upland Plover of New England seem to be in a fair way to follow the Wild Pigeons. From what you tell me I should say that the eggs

must have been dislodged by either a Crow or a Skunk probably by the former if the deed occurred, as I infer it did, after daybreak. Crows are great nest robbers but as a rule they seem to prefer young birds to eggs whereas the Blue Jays, which are equally destructive, take the eggs by preference if not exclusively. The Catbird besides nearly every nest the Bobs Hill woods each season and I am thinking seriously of hitching at least a portion of them next year. I could tell you some harrowing tales

of what I have already seen from Dr.

Thanking you warmly for the additional and most acceptable notes relating to the Plants

with I remain,

Sincerely,

William Brewster.

Cambridge,
June 26th 1902.

My dear Miss White,

I am relieved to know that you now think that the Plovers have safely brought out their brood. Professor Thompson is quite right in believing that these young of most if not all of the Plover, Sandpipers etc leave the nest soon after they are hatched (usually within an hour or two I think), I should have suggested that the eggs had safely hatched had it not been for what

you said about the shells being broken into small pieces. With the Partridge, Sandpipers, Terns, Gulls etc the shells are usually found in halves in or near the nest. Most of our smaller birds remove the shells, as a rule, but when they are allowed to remain near the nest, as occasionally happens, they are ordinarily in halves. Indeed I cannot recall ever finding the shells of any wild Bird's egg which had dofely hatched broken into small pieces such as you described. This led me to infer that the Plovers egg had been eaten by either a Crow or a Gull. I am truly glad to know that I was probably mistaken. Certainly the contained presence of Lobsterbacks of the Protozoa birds seems to show that they have young on the mainland. If you make any

further observations of interest I shall be glad to know of them.

Thanking you for your kind letter on the subject

I remain

Sincerely

Jeremiah Brewster.

Pine Point Camp,
Lake Umbagog, Maine.
Aug. 25th

My dear Miss White:-

Your letter of the 18th went first to Concord, next to Peterborough, N. H. and at length has found me here.

Thank you very much for your kind invitation to visit you at Hewitt next year. I shall be only too glad to take advantage of it if I am able to do so when the time arrives.

Thanking you, I remain

Sincerely

William Bixby.

My dear Miss White:-

I have never regarded the Swamp Sparrow as at all "shy" but he can skulk on occasion in a way that makes it different to get a good view of him. He is often very tame indeed. As to the Towhee the Towhees in Minnesota, I think, chiefly to the highlands of northern New England but I do not remember it distinctly.

I have often been here
on Mt. Wachusett and
on other elevations in
Central & western Massachusetts.
I am certainly interested to
know that the Upland Plover
breeds abundantly with
you at Heath. It used
to be a common summer
resident about Worcester
but I am told that it
has become very uncommon
there of late years.

Yours very sincerely

Jonathan Brewster.